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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 9, cancel claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10 and 11, and add new claims 13 – 15, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) An antenna unit, comprising:
a wire antenna element;
a patch antenna element, wherein nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle to create a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle,
wherein a height and off-centering of the wire antenna element from a central area of the antenna unit directively shifts the null of the terrestrial signal polarization pattern,
wherein the patch antenna element includes a high dielectric substrate intermediately located between a top metallization and a bottom metallization,
and
wherein a feed pin electrically couples the top metallization to the bottom metallization.
- 2 (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)

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7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method for improving antenna radiation characteristics, comprising the steps of:

providing at least two antenna units in a vehicular diversity application, wherein the antenna unit includes a wire antenna element and a patch antenna element;

providing the wire antenna element with a height and off-centering from a central area of the antenna unit such that nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle; and

providing a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle;

wherein the at least two antenna units are positioned in a diversity application, and

wherein the diversity application positions are selected from the group consisting of a vehicular a center location, left, driver-side location, a right, passenger-side location, a hood location, a left, driver-side front quarter panel location, a right, passenger-side front quarter panel location, an instrument panel location, a left, driver-side mirror location, and a right, passenger-side mirror location.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

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12. (original) An antenna unit, comprising:
a wire antenna element; and
a patch antenna element, wherein nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle to create a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle, and
wherein the patch antenna element includes a high dielectric substrate intermediately located between a top metallization and a bottom metallization, and
wherein a feed pin electrically couples the top metallization to the bottom metallization, and
wherein the wire antenna element includes a top plate coupled to a first stem soldered to the patch antenna and a second stem joined directly to the feed pin.
13. (new) An antenna unit, comprising:
a wire antenna element;
a patch antenna element, wherein nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle to create a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle,
wherein a height and off-centering of the wire antenna element from a central area of the antenna unit directly shifts the null of the terrestrial signal polarization pattern, and
wherein the wire antenna element is a straight-wire element soldered to the patch antenna element.

U.S.S.N. 10/848,936 (DP-310881) - 5**14. (new) An antenna unit, comprising:**

a wire antenna element;

a patch antenna element, wherein nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle to create a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle,

wherein a height and off-centering of the wire antenna element from a central area of the antenna unit directively shifts the null of the terrestrial signal polarization pattern, and

wherein the wire antenna element is a helical element soldered to the patch antenna element.

15. (new) An antenna unit, comprising:

a wire antenna element;

a patch antenna element, wherein nulls of a terrestrial signal polarization pattern are directed toward a passenger compartment of a vehicle to create a larger spatial region for reception of terrestrial signals that propagate toward the vehicle,

wherein a height and off-centering of the wire antenna element from a central area of the antenna unit directively shifts the null of the terrestrial signal polarization pattern, and

wherein the wire antenna element includes a cross-antenna element coupled to a stem that is soldered to the patch antenna element.